

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, April 21, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 225 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. Greg S Bell
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. D. Greg Buxton
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. M. Susan Lawrence
Rep. Joseph G. Murray

Members Absent:

Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. Scott Daniels

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.le.utah.gov> or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Cox moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2003. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

2. GIS and Accuracy of Boundary Data

Mr. Dennis Goreham distributed a list, requested from Sen. Hillyard in November's meeting, "Areas in which AGRC (Automated Geographic Reference Center) has made significant contributions in furthering the public good of government." He also distributed "Summarization of Boundaries," which provides an understanding of the creation, modification, annexation, and dissolution of boundaries within the State of Utah; Cadastral Interim Study Items, which information is critical to study how a parcel level database built upon an accurate Public Land Survey System could be created and shared through the State GIS Database; and sections from the Utah State Code.

Rep. Lorraine Pace spoke in favor of the GIS Database and how coordination with the AGRC became necessary during the redistricting process. She feels that this study item is a step in the right direction to help all entities to use uniform databases.

Mr. Vaughan Butler, Salt Lake County Surveyor, gave historical background of surveying in Utah, where pioneers used one method of surveying and the federal government another. He showed how GIS information is used in E-911 response, city annexations, financial responsibility of fires, flood control, voting precincts, county borders, and taxing purposes.

Mr. Goreham reviewed different measure systems. He indicated different measures of the same reference corner and how disputes can be handled in light of the errors.

The chair was relinquished to Sen. Walker.

It was suggested that an ad hoc workgroup of interested parties be formed to develop recommendations that could be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Jan Furner applauded the GIS efforts. He noted the need to be cautious about some resources for homeland security reasons.

Ms. Jodi Hoffman, League of Cities and Towns, spoke in favor of AGRC and offered their services.

Mr. Carlos Bruceras, UDOT, spoke in favor of AGRC and also offered technical help to increase the efficiency of the program.

3. Lobbyists for Cities and Counties

Rep. Neil Hansen introduced the discussion to study whether tax dollars should be used to pay lobbyists hired by cities and counties.

Committee discussion followed.

Rep. Buxton noted that legislators cannot do their job without the lobbyists, regardless if they are paid by tax dollars or not.

Sen. Bell noted that he does not see abuse of the issue.

Mr. Mike Jerman, Utah Taxpayers Association, stated that this is mainly a Salt Lake County issue and does require a legislative approach.

4. Municipal Water Rate Variances

Rep. Susan Lawrence, study sponsor, explained two issues of concern: 1) the lack of water service to unincorporated Salt Lake County, which presents a fire safety issue; and 2) water rates in Salt Lake County which are higher than water rates for Salt Lake City residents. She explained that negotiations are underway to create a special district, in which the residents would participate in the bond. She suggested going forth with a conservation water rate study and the possibility of creating a practical representation for citizens in this matter.

Mr. Jeff Niermayer, Deputy Director, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities and resident of unincorporated Salt Lake County, explained the city's agreements with property owners for high mountain stream waters and water distribution culinary system. He explained that after WWII, there was pressure to grow and sell resources. He explained the history of and the reason for the rate differential.

Rep. Murray spoke in favor of the local people having control over the water rates and ironing out differences before going to the Legislature.

Mr. Fred Finlinson stated that he feels the special district is a good solution. He expressed that he does not feel public safety and rate differential are the issue, but that it is lack of representation with the Public Service Commission.

Sen. Hillyard encouraged the stake holders to get together and work it out.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Buxton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.